

As the newspaper has expanded physically and geographically, so too has the Younis family's involvement in day-to-day operations. All six of Abed and Paz's children—Banny, Laila, Farah, Amier, Suaad, and Salam—grew up around and matured with the Variety. Today, three of those children have followed their parents' footsteps into the newspaper business. Laila Younis Boyer is now the president of the local corporation, while her brother Amier serves as the publisher of the newspaper's sister edition on Guam and their brother Salam is the operations manager of the Saipan office.

Please join me in congratulating Abed and Paz Younis, their family, and all of their past and current employees and colleagues at the Marianas Variety News & Views for the newspaper's forty years as an important provider of local, regional, and international news, a strong community partner, and a successful member of the business community in the Northern Mariana Islands.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in opposition to the Protecting Access to Healthcare Act.

The Protecting Access to Healthcare Act is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Unfortunately, this bill is a blatant attempt to protect the profits of special interests and restrict the rights of patients. The facts are right on the pages in black and white. H.R. 5 reduces access to courts for individuals injured by medical negligence like removing the wrong leg, faulty medical devices or dangerous drugs. It imposes a one size fits all approach on the damages in medical negligence cases and goes further than any state law in place today.

In fact, H.R. 5 includes provisions that violate States' rights by mandating a federal cap on all fifty states for medical liability. By including this poison pill, the House Republicans have prevented consensus in the House on changes to the Independent Payment Advisory Board. The American people want Congress to focus on commonsense, bipartisan legislation, but the House Republicans refuse. It appears some Members on the other side of the aisle won't stop until they abolish healthcare for all people, and especially low-income individuals, women and seniors. They can try to hide behind any piece of legislation they want, but they can't hide from the facts: their goal is to end the Medicare guarantee and increase costs for seniors.

I will continue to urge my Republican colleagues to stop their war on women and seniors, I will continue to protect quality healthcare for Americans and I will continue to push for compromise in the House of Representatives.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this bill because it is a misguided attempt at scoring political point that combines two bad policies and puts them into one piece of legislation. First, it is obvious that the House Republican leadership has brought this bill to the floor the day after introducing their budget in an attempt to distract American seniors from the damaging effects it would have on Medicare. That budget proposes to end the Medicare guarantee, and shifts the rising costs of healthcare onto seniors and disabled individuals.

Second, let's look at the facts. Medicare costs already grow at a slower rate than the private insurance industry. We took a huge step in strengthening Medicare and the overall health system in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which includes virtually every cost containment provision recommended by health care experts. The Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) is simply one of the tools in the ACA to help contain costs. It is a failsafe provision that only comes into effect if other reforms in the ACA do not contain costs or Congress chooses not to act to implement new measures that would build upon the kind of changes we made in the Affordable Care Act. Those reforms have already begun to lower Medicare growth rates to historically low levels, which prompted the CBO to project that IPAB will not even become necessary until sometime after 2022.

Everyone here knows that IPAB is prohibited by law from rationing health care, increasing premiums, initiating cost-sharing, and recommending benefits cuts—and we also all know that rationing by the insurance industry is precisely what the Republican budget proposes to do. Republican attacks on IPAB are simply a diversion from the fact that House Republicans want to put insurance companies back in charge of American's health care choices. We should not be trying to repeal helpful provisions of the ACA to divert attention from the larger issue: the House Republican budget and its attack on the Medicare guarantee.

HONORING CAROLYN HEBENSTREICH

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Ms. Carolyn Hebenstreich, Stanislaus County Veterans Services Office Manager, who will be retiring

on March 31, 2012, after more than 22 years of outstanding service to our veterans.

Carolyn Hebenstreich began working for the VA Medical Center in Livermore as a student helper in Housekeeping during the summer of 1968. In 1976, Carolyn was hired by the VA Medical Center, VAMC, Livermore as a File Clerk and worked her way up to Chief of Office Operations.

In 1979, Carolyn took a hiatus and worked in the private sector for about 8 months. She then worked at the Tracy Defense Logistic Depot for a short time before transferring back to VAMC Livermore. In 1985, she transferred to VA New Orleans as the Chief of Ambulatory Care. Her desire to return to California prompted her transfer back to VAMC Livermore in February 1986, where she worked for 3 more years.

Stanislaus County hired Carolyn in June 1989, as Veterans Representative 1 for the Veterans Services Office, VSO. When the Department Head, Bud Lahr, retired in 1993, the VSO merged with the Area Agency on Aging to become the Stanislaus County Department of Aging and Veterans Services.

Carolyn was appointed to be the lead person for the VSO. She served in this capacity from 1993 until 2001, when she was promoted to Manager of the VSO.

Ms. Hebenstreich is accredited by the following organizations: American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, California Department of Veteran Affairs, and the National Association of County Veterans Services Officers.

In addition, Carolyn has served on various committees over the years for the California Association of County Veterans Services Officers and served on the Executive Committee for 2 years. She has helped organize the Annual Veterans Day Parades and Veterans Award Ceremonies since 1994, and has worked with the local veterans organizations on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Carolyn Hebenstreich, Stanislaus County Veterans Services Office Manager, for her numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

ON THE PASSING OF MS. ADA SHARPTON

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I want to express my condolences on the passing of Ms. Ada Sharpton on Thursday, March 23, 2012, in Dothan, Alabama. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of this loving and devoted mother.

With great reverence, I add my voice to the chorus of praises and sincere appreciation for the lifetime works and experience of this extremely passionate and loving soul, inspiration, and friend to all. Few people have the opportunity to influence so many in their life. All who came into contact with Ada were especially blessed. Her intensity was born of love, her insistence was driven by her determination to